

Utility proposes new path for stringing wires

By Steve Gehrke The Salt Lake Tribune
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HERRIMAN - Rocky Mountain Power "turned out the lights" on one version of a controversial power-transmission path in Herriman.

The electric utility will not bury the lines along 6400 west, and it won't run a system of power poles down 12600 south.

Instead, they could string wire along 13400 south. That decision isn't final. "Rocky Mountain Power determined the 12600 South option is no longer viable and is removing its conditional-use permit application," power contractor Mike Doyle told the Herriman Planning Commission Thursday.

Residents along 12600 South - one segment is Herriman Parkway, another is called Main Street - were concerned about the potential path of the towering poles, citing diminished property values and aesthetics as prime concerns.

Rocky Mountain Power officials said they abandoned the proposed 12600 South transmission line in part because the Utah Department of Transportation was concerned it might interrupt the Mountain View Corridor path - site of a future west-side highway.

"There's not enough space at 126th," said spokeswoman Margaret Oler. "All the cities, counties, developers, UDOT - everybody - said this was not a good place," About a half-mile of the total 5-mile transmission line is expected to run through Herriman's jurisdiction after the route is ultimately selected. The path would run near 6400 West from north- to-south, but the east-to-west route is still up in the air.

The alternate route along 13400 South has been tabled until the power company resolves how an already-approved Herriman substation will get its power. Construction is expected to begin this year at 13373 S. Rose Canyon Road. Rocky Mountain Power had planned to transmit energy to Herriman from the Camp Williams substation to the south in Bluffdale.

"Our original intent was to build from the south first, since it's where most of the development is occurring," said Doyle. Now, the company is considering moving power from the Oquirrh substation to the north, once it is upgraded.

Neighbors along the planned 6400 West route said Thursday that they didn't like the idea of looking at towering poles, nor the potential of wires swinging directly overhead during storms.

But several conceded 6400 West was the most feasible placement for the north-south route.

"I don't like it, but it does need to go along here," said Dennis Harmer, a Herriman resident who recently moved from Southern California. "But I was not informed well enough . . . I would not have bought a home right next to a power line."

Rocky Mountain Power officials said property condemnation probably would not be necessary.

"We're working individually with property owners along the route," said Margaret Oler, Rocky Mountain Power spokeswoman.

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What's next

* A decision about how to configure a power transmission line along 13400 South could be made six to 12 months from now, according to Mike Doyle, a contractor working with Rocky Mountain Power.